

# The Ammonite

A weekly newsletter for students, parents, carers, families  
and friends of Wellsway School

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back after the half term and Jubilee weekend, I hope you all had opportunities to celebrate with family and friends.

This week has seen Year 13 enter their first full week of examinations. For this year group, the class of 2020, this is a huge achievement. We are all very proud of their approach despite the challenges that this first set of external examinations has brought them. I have no doubt they will be rewarded for their patience and perseverance.

This week we have been discussing and celebrating Pride week in School, Assemblies and tutor activities written by Ms Jones, PSHE Coordinator. These activities have enabled students to understand the origin of this now annual event. An event that, at its heart celebrates both tolerance and diversity.

Our diversity group has produced the fact sheet that has been included in this week's Ammonite.

In this edition, we celebrate sporting success in and out of school and there are some fabulous photographs of our Bake Off Competition with some Jubilee themed cakes amongst the entries.

This term will be very busy with lots of events, taking the theme of our school motto: Futura Aedificamus - "we build for the future". There are many opportunities coming for all students. You will find information below:

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee - It's fantastic to see that lots of you have already expressed an interest to Plant a Tree for the Jubilee. Details below on how to register.

Wellsway PTA used uniform sale - Saturday 9th July 2022, 11am to 1pm in the languages block.

Challenge Programme: Higher Project Qualification - any current Year 9 pupils who might be interested should come to an information session in L22 Wednesday 15th June 3:05-4:00pm for more information

Finally, our new equipment that has supported the reintroduction of Dance and Gymnastics into the KS3 Core PE Curriculum this year was put into good use on the last Thursday before half term. We were delighted to welcome Year 3 and Year 4 students from Saltford Primary School for a Gymnastics Transition session in Glastonbury.

Best wishes  
Rob Pearsall

**Principal & Executive Head of School**  
Wellsway School and IKB Academy



Issue : 1034—Friday 10th June 2022

## Key dates

### Thursday 9th June

Parent/Carer Information Evening—  
Student Wellbeing

### Thursday 16th June

Y7 Virtual Parent/Carer Evening 4-7pm

### Friday 17th June & Monday 11th July

Inset Days

### Saturday 9th July

PTA used uniform sale 11-1



## Student Attendance

**Attendance**—A reminder that when sending emails regarding student attendance, please send them to our enquiries email inbox - [enquiries@wellswayschool.com](mailto:enquiries@wellswayschool.com) with the subject FAO Attendance Improvement Officer Ms Louise Fox or email direct to Ms Fox [lfox@wellswayschool.com](mailto:lfox@wellswayschool.com). Please do not email direct to Miss Lucy Fox - [lfox@wellswayschool.com](mailto:lfox@wellswayschool.com) who is one of our science teachers. We realise that this is an easy mistake



## Year 9 Bake Off

Students in Year 9 baked and decorated cupcakes or biscuits.



## PTA Used Uniform Sale

Wellsway PTA is holding a used uniform sale on Saturday 9th July 2022, 11am to 1pm in the languages block.

(Cash or cheque only, no card payment.)

If you have any out-grown uniform - please donate it to us! Just pop the clean clothing in a bag with 'PTA uniform donation' on it and hand it to Student Support or email [pta@wellswayschool.com](mailto:pta@wellswayschool.com) for a local address to take it to.

Thank you!

## Year 7 & 8 Pizza making

Students made their own bread dough, prepared toppings and then shaped the dough to create a pizza suitable for a child under 11 years old.

## Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

It's fantastic to see that lots of you have already expressed an interest to Plant a Tree for the Jubilee.

*The Queen's Green Canopy* (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". The wonderful *Tree of Trees* was such a remarkable sight at the celebrations outside Buckingham Palace last week.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girl Guiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

At Wellsway School, we will be playing our part by inviting every child to have the opportunity to plant a tree when we take receipt of 1200 saplings from the Woodland Trust. Trees will be planted on a Saturday in November as part of a celebration day with the opportunity to write in our book of memories or hopes for the future. The date will be confirmed once we have a confirmed delivery date.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

If you have not already done so, please do complete this brief form to register an expression of interest for your child to attend with a supportive adult. <https://forms.office.com/r/pbT5VrPv2z>

Mr Gascoyne



THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022



### 'Changing me' and 'Careers' in PSHE

During next term, students in years 7 to 10 will be exploring the theme of 'Changing Me' and 'Careers' in PSHE.

Session content for week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> June:

- Year 7: Thinking about a Career & Puberty
- Year 8: Thinking about a Career & Healthy Relationships
- Year 9: Thinking about a Career & Mental Health and Sleep
- Year 10: Thinking about a Career & Change in Society

Ms Jones



## Gymnastic Transition Event - Y3/4 - Saltford Primary School

At Wellsway, we have been delighted to receive funding for new equipment and reintroduce Dance and Gymnastics into the KS3 Core PE Curriculum this year. On the last Thursday before half term, we welcomed Y3 and Y4 students from Saltford Primary School for a Gymnastics Transition session in Glastonbury.

The students first recapped shapes, balances and rolls and linked them in with travel to create their own routines along the mats. They then progressed to use the springboards to help develop dive forward rolls and experiment with shapes jumping off the vaults. With the help of Miss Randall, students also challenged themselves to perform a handspring off the vault!

A big thank you to Delal, Ava and Emily for your support and leadership in helping the primary school children develop their competence in Gymnastics.

Ellie and Scarlet said that they 'really enjoyed the floor part of the session and developing their own routines.'

Claudia said that she 'loved performing a handspring' and the session was 'a really good experience.'

Aiden and Clara said that they enjoyed 'running and doing a somersault onto the crash mat'



## Challenge Programme: Higher Project Qualification

As part of the Challenge Programme we are offering the opportunity to complete the Higher Project Qualification for pupils in Year 10 next year. This is a level 2 qualification (same level as GCSE) designed to develop academic skills useful for further studies and future careers.

Pupils will learn research, critical thinking, organisation, project writing and presentation skills in weekly after-school sessions and then apply these skills to a research project of their own choice.

Here are some examples of the projects completed successfully by Wellsway pupils this year.

"What if Earth became a rogue planet?" "What makes a book a classic?" "What is the future for cryptocurrencies?"

Any current Year 9 pupils who might be interested should come to an information session in L22 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 3:05-4:00pm for more information and to see presentations of some of the projects completed this year by the current Year 10. Please email Dr Hambidge [nhambidge@wellswayschool.com](mailto:nhambidge@wellswayschool.com) if you plan to attend.

Dr Hambidge - Challenge Programme Coordinator

## Music News

Rehearsals are going well for the Futura Oratorio. Please note that due to Year 7 Parents Evening on June 16th, we have had to move our rehearsal for both orchestra and choir to Wednesday June 15th, 3.15pm-4.15pm. Please check Insight notices regarding tickets for this event and confirming participation in this event.

Dates for your diary:

Have you looked at the programme for Keynsham Music Festival? We are delighted that Futura Learning Partnership has its own Open Mic Night at Temple Canteen on Wednesday June 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm. Do come and support - plenty of Wellsway students will be performing. In addition to this, other students have their own solo slots on the acoustic stage.

The outdoor Summer Concert will take place on Wednesday July 6th. More details to follow regarding this performance. The concert will feature our school choir, orchestra, soul and funk band, folk group, the musical club and the legendary 6<sup>th</sup> form band, Youth Undone.



## Swimming Competition

Chloe S in Year 10 has won 2 silver medals in the Cheltenham Southwest Synchronised and Artistic Swimming competitions. She competed for Team Bath Artistic Swimming Club and was only 0.02 points away from getting Gold in one event.

Congratulations Chloe!

## Ewan S – Athletics

Congratulations to Ewan S who recently competed in the British Milers Club PB event and achieved a new personal best in the 800m, which now places him in 6<sup>th</sup> in the country for under 13 boys.

An excellent achievement.

Well done Ewan!

## Y10 B&NES Rounders Tournament

On Tuesday we travelled to St. Gregory's for the Year 10 B&NES Rounders Tournament.

After attending regular training and success in their last fixture the girls were confident with their team however, after hearing the tournament had been changed to mixed teams decided it was time to give Tom and Stanley the call-up. The team faced 18 good balls per innings and the first match was vs Oldfield, in which Bella and Katie kindly offered to play for the opposition due to lack of players. A very close game ended with a draw at 4 ½ each.

Next up we played Ralph Allen, Lola was brilliant in the deep field and was awarded POM, however, unfortunately we lost the game. In the third match we faced hosts St. Greg's and despite some brilliant hits and catches we narrowly lost the match. Well done to Phoebe who was awarded POM in this game.

The final game of the evening was played against Writhlington. There was extremely tight fielding from both sides which led to a very low scoring match, with Sofia doing a great job as backstop—she was awarded POM and we took a victory to end the day!

Well done Year 10 - you represented the school well! Rounders club continues on a Tuesday after-school for all age groups.



### CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Wellsway School Careers Hub –

Drop in to ask a question, enquire about anything 'careers' OR

Email – [careers@wellswayschool.com](mailto:careers@wellswayschool.com)

[Careers Update: 8th June 2022](#)



We are celebrating **PRIDE** month at Wellsway through Assemblies and a tutor time quiz!

The Equalities Group have launched a competition for students to design their own flags for **PRIDE** and have created the following dictionary to help students.

## Transgender

Often shortened to **trans**. An umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with the gender they were assigned at birth. The trans umbrella includes trans men and women, **non-binary** people and **demigenders** (identifying partly with a gender, but not completely).



A trans man is someone who has transitioned from female to male (often abbreviated FTM)



A trans woman is someone who has transitioned from male to female (MTF).

**Transsexual** is an older term for transgender. It was used in the past as a medical term, and thus has associations with the belief that a trans person must medically transition to "be trans". Because of this, some people find the term transsexual offensive.

# LGBTQIA+

## Dictionary

## Non-Binary

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity is neither male or female. Being nonbinary can include people who identify with aspects of one, both or neither of these genders.

I wish my teachers knew that being non-binary is not a *third gender*. It means whatever I want it to mean. **-A nonbinary student at Wellsway**



## Cisgender (Cis)

Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. This word is not a slur, and is just a way of describing someone who is not transgender.

## Dysphoria

Used to describe when a person experiences discomfort or distress because there is a mismatch between their sex assigned at birth and their gender identity. Gender dysphoria is a **clinical diagnosis** and can cause physical and mental distress.

## Deadname

The birth name of a trans person who has changed their name. Many trans people experience pain and dysphoria when being associated with a name that does not fit them, and deadnaming is a disrespectful thing to do deliberately.



When teachers deadname me, it makes it really hard to focus in lessons. I feel dysphoric and can only think about what the other students think and if I'm safe and respected. I wish teachers would try harder to use my chosen name. **-A trans student at Wellsway**

Statements such as "I don't care what they do, just do it behind closed doors" or "as long as they don't shove it in my face" are unfortunately common, and **homophobic**

## Queer

A term used to avoid specific labels of romantic or sexual orientation, or gender identity. The term is often also used to refer to someone who is in the LGBTQIA+ community, without referencing a specific identity.

**Queer** was used as a slur in the past and was reclaimed in the late 1980s. Some LGBTQIA+ people still view this word as a slur.

## Intersex

A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes or whose biological attributes may not fit with societal assumptions about what constitutes male or female. An intersex person's gender identity is separate to their sex, and they may identify as cis, trans, male, female, non-binary or any other identity.

## Asexual (Ace)

A person who does not experience sexual attraction is asexual. These people may or may not still experience romantic attraction (the lack of romantic attraction is called **aromanticism** (aro), and asexuality exists as a spectrum. Asexual people may also use terms such as gay, lesbian, straight (etc.) in conjunction with their identity as asexual.

Some asexual people use the terms **greysexual** or **grey-ace**. Others use terms such as **demisexual** or demiromantic to express their feeling of sexual and/or romantic attraction, but only once an emotional bond is established

## Bisexual

An umbrella term describing the attraction to two or more genders. The bi umbrella includes **pansexual** (sometimes called gender-blind attraction), **omnisexual** (attraction to all genders) and more. Being bisexual does NOT equate having multiple partners, and does NOT mean a person cannot "make up their mind".

## Lesbian and Gay

Whilst the term lesbian almost exclusively refers to the attraction of women to other women, gay is used as a term for the attraction of men to other men and more generally as a synonym for **queer**. You may hear lesbians referred to as "gay women"



Sometimes people think that my sexuality is "silly" or "made up" because it's not as common as others. But finding a label that explains how I feel makes me feel confident. **-A pansexual student at Wellsway**

## Homophobia

The dislike or **prejudice** against gay people. Because of the term "phobia", people often misinterpret homophobia as the fear of gay people.

A classmate once outed me in front of my class. I felt scared, but the teacher quietly spoke to the classmate and told him what he did was wrong. He apologised to me without it being a big deal. The teacher made me feel safe and appreciated that day **-A queer student at Wellsway**



## Outing

When a member of the LGBTQIA+ community's sexual orientation or gender identity is disclosed to someone else or a group of people without their consent. Even if a person does not hide their identity, it is their information to share if and when they want to. Outing someone deliberately is an offensive thing to do that can lead to discomfort, distrust, or in the worst cases, putting someone in **danger**.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE METAVERSE

AGE RATING

Varies per metaverse platform

'Metaverse' is a relatively new term to many, however the concept has been around for some time. Videogames, for example, use many aspects of the metaverse; avatars, digital currency, mini-games, and open communication. A metaverse can also take many forms; Fortnite can be seen as a metaverse, as is Roblox. Put simply, a metaverse is an online environment where people interact, play games and express themselves. Away from traditional videogames, there are newer and more 'dedicated' metaverses such as Decentraland, The Sandbox and Somnium Space which are akin to Second Life.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### UNSAFE AREAS

Many metaverse platforms feature little to no moderation. This is due to the decentralised nature of the metaverse - as there is no one company overseeing the platform, users can create and build with freedom. This can be a minefield for younger users as adult material or sensitive topics can feature on a parcel of land seen by everyone.

### VOICE COMMUNICATION

The freedom found within creation is also found in communication. Most metaverses use proximity VOIP communication (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and users can approach any other user to start a conversation. It is necessary for avatars to be quite close to another in order to talk and once they are, anything can be said. While a chat box can be moderated, voice chat cannot.

### ANONYMITY

As with almost every other form of online interactions, anonymity features heavily within the metaverse. The concept for the metaverse is to live any type of life digitally. This could mean that 'bad actors' (those with malicious intent) can take advantage of others with ease. Reporting and monitoring these users is becoming easier on the more popular platforms, but others struggle to police these situations.

### VIRTUAL REALITY

Not all metaverse platforms are VR enabled, in fact less than 10% feature VR interactivity. However, it's always worth monitoring the amount of time younger users spend in virtual reality. A VR metaverse differs greatly to VR gaming in user interaction. Approaching each other in a VR metaverse attempts to represent 'reality' and can result in a greater impact if experiences are negative.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

Whether in virtual reality or not, interactions and experiences in the metaverse can often carry more weight because they mimic 'real life'. Oftentimes, due to the freedom in avatar creation, younger users may open themselves up to bullying, prejudice or an unrealistic idea of reality. For instance, female-orientated avatars may find themselves targeted by bullies or inappropriate users.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TRY IT OUT FIRST

This may sound like an obvious tip, but by entering the metaverse and exploring on your own, you'll be able to see what your child might. You can explore the busier areas and even the quiet sections to see what users are building or advertising. You'll also learn first-hand how users communicate with each other. Many metaverse platforms will feature an entry area which showcases the busiest areas. Check them all out and see what's happening.

### LEARN ABOUT NFTS, WALLETS AND CRYPTO

With the metaverse comes Web3 technologies such as NFTs, cryptocurrency and wallets in which to store them. If you have a crypto wallet, do not connect it to your child's metaverse. One simple click could result in loss of cryptocurrency. If you are unsure what these technologies are, try to research them as these terms will appear in the metaverse.

### CREATE AN AVATAR TOGETHER

If you decide on allowing your child into the metaverse, set up their initial avatar together. This way you can ensure the avatar is age-appropriate and keeps their identity private. You can also advise on aspects which may result in attracting bullies or unwanted attention. It will also allow you to see which avatar items cost money, and talk to your child about in-game spending.

### START WITH THE FAMILIAR

There are already metaverse experiences with children in mind; explain to your child what a metaverse is and have them recognise similarities between those and games like Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft. Unfortunately, there is no 'child safe' metaverse option as yet, though Epic Games and LEGO are currently developing a family safe metaverse.

### Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a father to two girls, aged 14 and 12. Before Dan began his Web3 metaverse journey, he worked as a videogame journalist and author for a decade; reviewing games, talking to creators and writing about videogame trends. Dan has also written fifteen guide books about Fortnite, Minecraft, Roblox, Apex Legends and Valorant for HarperCollins and Bonnier Books.

